



# E-News

March 10, 2023

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## LEAD-K UPDATE: Keep Going!!!

Becky Davis, Executive Director of MCDHH

After Legislative Break, committees will reconvene to discuss changes. The House Elementary and Secondary Education Committee will work with Rep. Jerome Barnes to make changes to HB106. Clark Corogenes has worked with several organizations and people and will make suggestions regarding changing the bill. Sometimes bills have a second hearing. If it gets to the House floor for a vote, ALL representatives will vote on it. So contact your local representative and tell him to **please support HB106 if it reaches the House floor!!!!**

On the Senate side, the Senate President referred SB340 to the Education and Workforce Development Committee. This committee is led by Senator Andrew Koenig (<https://senate.mo.gov/Senators/Member/15>). We want him to give SB340 a hearing.

If you click above, you will see 'Email the Senator' on the right side of the screen. Contact him and ask him to consider giving SB340 a hearing. Feel free to use any of the ideas below:

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Senator Koenig, please consider letting the community speak to the need of SB340. Too many children have fallen to illiteracy, unnecessarily, and end up dependent on the government because of the challenges they face when they cannot obtain employment or access services. Deaf and hard of hearing children deserve whatever intervention necessary, the same as any child would get if not progressing as expected.

---OR---

### 2023 MCDHH Commission Meetings

#### Thursday, April 13

The Lohman Building,  
100 Jefferson Street,  
Jefferson City, MO  
10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

#### Thursday, June 22

The Lohman Building,  
100 Jefferson Street,  
Jefferson City, MO  
10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

#### October 2023

Date TBD

Senator Koenig, I am contacting you regarding SB340 (Sen. Razer, sponsor). As the chair of the Education and Workforce Development Committee, I am asking that the bill be given a hearing. Please give us, the Deaf and Hard of Hearing community, who have been through Missouri's educational system or have children who have been/are in the educational system, the opportunity to explain why this measure is needed. This legislation will result in the review of educational resources and tools as well as recommend and track the effectiveness of developmental guidelines to assist the families and educators of deaf and hard of hearing children. The only thing getting in the way of these children being kindergarten-ready are unenforced and ineffective federal laws and practices. Missouri can do better!

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Senator Koenig, Senator Greg Razer has submitted SB340 which would establish an assessment tool and program to ensure that deaf and hard of hearing children are progressing in their language development appropriately. Too many Missouri deaf and hard of hearing children start school with weak language and cognitive skills. This does not have to be the case in Missouri. Please have a hearing to hear the concerns of the public, many of whom have/had children in the educational system in Missouri, others who have been through Missouri school themselves. The system we have is not working, let's start making progress towards equal opportunities for deaf and hard of hearing children in our state!

----- OR-----

Senator Koenig, please consider a public hearing on SB340 submitted by Senator Greg Razer. Academic results by way of literacy rates is dismal for deaf and hard of hearing children in our state. It does not have to be this way. Deaf and hard of hearing children face obstacles with language acquisition when they do not have 100% access to language. Research has proved that ages 0-5 are critical for brain development associated with language learning. SB340 would review information provided to families, support family involvement in their child's academic progress, assist in the establishing of fair language assessment practices and reporting both to families and the state regarding the progress of children in state and federally funded early intervention. What we have is not working, let Missouri lead their schools towards effective education for deaf and hard of hearing students and their families.

Let's not let our momentum slow down! We will keep an eye on HB106 and see what is happening with that AND let's see if we can get Senator Koenig to give SB340 a hearing!

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# 3rd annual Deaf in Healthcare Summit for Interpreters

April 14-16, 2023.

Through this summit, our goal is to provide sign language interpreters with a professional platform to learn from and collaborate with Deaf, hard of hearing and DeafBlind stakeholders, medical interpreters and medical professionals to create a shared vision of consumer-centric interpreting experiences in healthcare settings where everyone benefits.

We are also partnering with the Association of Medical Professionals with Hearing Losses (AMPHL) to host a pre-conference on the topic of language deprivation/acquisition and its impact on interpreting dynamics in healthcare settings. This pre-conference will be taking place April 13-14, 2023.

The summit agenda and additional pertinent information is listed at [www.2axend.com/summit](http://www.2axend.com/summit)

## Coding Bootcamp Town Hall Meeting #3

Wednesday, March 29th at 7 pm ET/4 pm PT

The CSD Learns and Deaf Kids Code Team invites you to join our third town hall meeting for Deaf Kids Code Coding Bootcamp on Wednesday, March 29th from 7-8 pm ET/4-5 pm PT. We'll host a Zoom meeting for educators, caregivers, learners, and anyone else curious about our upcoming virtual coding bootcamp. The CSD Learns team will give a sneak peek of the coding course in Canvas, explain the registration process, and answer any questions you may have about our coding bootcamp, co-hosted by CSD Learns and Deaf Kids Code. ASL interpreters and live captioning will be provided for this meeting.

Here is the [Zoom link to join the meeting](#).

We are thrilled to share this resource with you! Also, if you haven't already, you can register for the Coding Bootcamp [here](#).

## MCDHH Town Halls

**March 11, 2023**  
**The Whole Person**  
**10:00-12:00**  
**3710 Main St**  
**Kansas City, MO**

**April 1, 2023**  
**The Library Center-**  
**The Frisco Community Room**  
**10:00-12:00**  
**2535 N. Kansas Expressway**  
**Springfield, MO**

**\*\*ADDRESS CORRECTION\*\***



## **Touch Matters: Communication Strategies with DeafBlind Individuals** **IS OPEN FOR REGISTRATION!**

**You are receiving this pre-invitation because you have expressed interest in supporting our individuals with deafblindness across Missouri!**

**Please join us for a two-day workshop to learn Haptics and PT with instructors  
Ashley Benton and Taylor Ofori!**

**Workshop days are Saturday and Sunday April 1 & 2 at Missouri School for the  
Blind, St. Louis MO. Workshop is free! We got you!**

**We also have swag, snacks and lunch for you!**

**Five lucky participants will win *Haptic Communication: The Helen Keller  
National Center's American Edition of the Original Title Haptisk Kommunikasjon!***

**RID and ACVREP credits are available too!**

**[Click Here for Touch Matters Registration!](#)**

For more information see DBTAP's [Outreach Professional Development Page](#)



# SAVE THE DATE

## HKNC Mental Health Training Series

**When:** Weekly in May 2023

**Time:** Wednesdays 5:00 PM-7:00 PM CST

**Where:** Zoom

Helen Keller National Center is excited to announce a webinar series on Mental Health services for individuals who are DeafBlind. The goal is to increase access to mental health resources, overall awareness and understanding of the success and struggles within the diverse DeafBlind population. Interpreting support will be available. CEUs will be offered.

Weekly webinars topics will address:

Week 1: DeafBlind Mental Health for Professionals

Week 2: DeafBlind Mental Health for VR Counselors

Week 3: Mental Health for DeafBlind Individuals

Week 4: DeafBlind Mental Health for Families

Week 5: DeafBlind Mental Health for Interpreters

If you are interested and would like further information, please fill out the link below. Questions? Email us at [pld@hknc.org](mailto:pld@hknc.org)



<https://survey.alchemer.com/s3/7203293/Mental-Health-Training-Series-Pre-Registration>

Are you ready to take TEP?



# OPEN FOR 2023

## TEST OF ENGLISH PROFICIENCY (TEP) BEI

Link: [www.mcdhh.mo.gov](http://www.mcdhh.mo.gov)

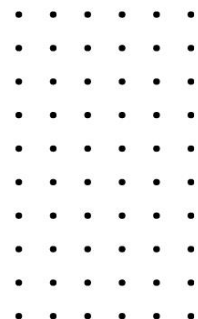
Click on certification on the tab, at the top row then click forms under interpreter certification on right.

**DEADLINE: MARCH 31ST, 2023**

Maximum: 16 seats

### CONTACT:

MICS Coordinator  
Shanda Miller at  
[shanda.miller@mcdhh.mo.gov](mailto:shanda.miller@mcdhh.mo.gov)



### WHEN:

APRIL 14TH, 2023

### WHERE:

Florissant Valley  
Community College  
3400 Pershall Rd  
St. Louis, MO 63135

Training Center Building  
Room 202 & 204

### COST:

\$50 for Missourians  
\$85 for Out of State





## Emergency Management Access and Functional Needs Disability Awareness Trainings in Missouri

Niagara University Disability Awareness Training has received funding from the Missouri Developmental Disabilities Council to educate anyone involved in emergency planning, preparedness, response, and recovery as it pertains to individuals with disabilities and access and functional needs. NU has tailored a presentation that identifies the responsibilities of both emergency management personnel and disability advocates during an emergency. This program will introduce the four modules necessary for proper response that include Disability Awareness Training, the Americans with Disabilities Act specific to Emergency management, emergency plan content, and Inclusive Planning and Active Participation.

### Topics to be discussed:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Disability Awareness specific to Emergency Management</li><li>• Access and Functional Needs defined to include Universal Design</li><li>• Understanding how the whole community concept is imperative to proper response to individuals with disabilities and how to involve them.</li><li>• NYC Lawsuit and its ramifications nationwide</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The Americans with Disabilities Act relative to Emergency management and response.</li><li>• Community resources and other materials that assist Emergency Management in proper response</li><li>• Disaster Preparedness and Planning</li><li>• Inclusive Planning and Active Participation</li></ul> |
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Option 1: Two-Day Program: This program is designed for those who are active in the disability community and or working in some capacity in an emergency management office. Requirement to

report an Emergency Management Access and Functional needs activities after the training is required.

Option 2: Half-Day Program: This program educates individuals who want to learn about the process, be active in a capacity that suits their interest and availability, and wants to assist in directing peers and colleagues within their demographic, municipality, or line of work. Obligations to report emergency management participation is not required in this role.

**We are currently holding FOUR trainings in the state of Missouri, listed below.**

**We will be carrying out trainings in all 9 regions of Missouri over the next 3 years. All trainings are free.**

### **Springfield, Missouri**

Option One: Full Training **March 6th-7th, 2023**  
**8:30-4:30pm CST**

[Click Here to Register](#)

OR

Option Two: Half Day **March 7th, 2023 12:30-4:30pm CST**

[Click Here to Register](#)

**Place: Springfield-Greene County OEM**

**330 W. Scott Street, Springfield, MO 65802**

### **Independence, Missouri**

Option One: Full Training **March 8th-9th, 2023**  
**8:30-4:30pm CST**

[Click Here to Register](#)

OR

Option Two: Half Day **March 9th, 2023 12:30-4:30pm CST**

[Click Here to Register](#)

**Place: Uptown Market building**

**211 W. Truman Road, Independence, MO 64050**

### **Columbia, Missouri**

Option One: Full Training **March 27th-28th, 2023**  
**9:00am-5:00pm CST**

[Click Here to Register](#)

OR

### **St. Louis, Missouri**

Option One: Full Training **March 29th-30th, 2023**  
**9:00am-5:00pm CST**

[Click Here to Register](#)

OR



Option Two: Half Day **March 28th, 2023 1:00-5:00pm CST**

[Click Here to Register](#)

**Place: New Hall Event Space**

**700 Cougar Drive Columbia, MO 65216**

Option Two: Half Day **March 30th, 2023 1:00-5:00pm CST**

[Click Here to Register](#)

**Place: St. Louis County Office of Emergency Management**

**1150 Hanna Rd., Ballwin, MO 63021**

For questions regarding this training or to request accommodations such as an ASL interpreter please email [carynewman@niagara.edu](mailto:carynewman@niagara.edu) or call 716-286-8139

Funding for this training has been provided by the Missouri Developmental Disabilities Council



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## **Greater St. Louis Area Town Hall Meeting (Deaf Blind)**

Do you or know of someone who has a hearing loss or is deaf, but is also experiencing vision loss issues? Do you or know of someone who has a vision loss or is blind, but is also experiencing hearing loss issues?

We invite you to join us. In the world of combined vision and hearing loss, there are many things we can do to improve our lives. We want to hear from YOU. There are agencies that want to help, but need to hear YOUR FEEDBACK. Come LEARN about US and help us LEARN about YOU.

Come in Person or via Zoom: Choose one date to attend

When: Thursday, March 23, 2023 at 6:30-8:00 pm

When: Saturday, March 25, 2023 at 10:00-11:30 am

Where: Society for the Blind & Visually Impaired, 8770 Manchester Rd, Brentwood, MO 63144

If attending in person, arrive 30 minutes early to socialize.

If attending via Zoom, join the link 15 minutes early to ensure your camera/microphone are working and you can access the interpreter/captions if needed.

RSVP by March 10th with your full name, date, whether you'll be attending in-person or virtually, and if accommodation is needed.

913-677-4562 (Voice) or 913-227-4282 (VP)      Email: [bjordan@helenkeller.org](mailto:bjordan@helenkeller.org)

A Special Thank You to our Sponsors: DEAF, Inc., St. Louis Society for the Blind & Visually Impaired, Sight and Sound Impaired of St Louis, Helen Keller National Center, and Lighthouse for the Blind

## =====EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES=====



Parkway School District (St. Louis), 3 ASL Teacher Positions:

<https://www.applitrack.com/pkwyk12/onlineapp/default.aspx?Category=Teacher+-+Other>

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Missouri Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, Office Support Specialist

<https://mocareers.mo.gov/hiretrue/ce3/job-board/5effe9b2-4b89-494b-ac76-c45e25190768>

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Missouri School for the Deaf, Office Assistant (Museum):

<https://mocareers.mo.gov/hiretrue/ce3/job-board/5effe9b2-4b89-494b-ac76-c45e25190768>

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**SEEKING PARENT-ADVISORS** The Families First Program is seeking **contracted** Parent Advisors state-wide to provide early intervention services to families and their young deaf/hard of hearing children in their natural environments. Potential applicant should have a bachelor's degree in education-related or similar field.

-Part-time with flexible hours

-Work within your community and/or surrounding areas or virtual

-Paid traveling time and mileage in addition to the per hour visit for assigned families

-Training stipends

You must register and apply through Missouri Buys: <https://missouribuys.mo.gov/>

Applications will be accepted through April 4<sup>th</sup>.

Any questions, please call Sarah Rohrbach at 573-592-2503.